

60,130-1303
01MRA0194REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed on September 18, 2003.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings pursuant to 37 CFR 1.83(a). Applicant has added new Figure 8 to address the Examiner's concerns. This drawing is supported by the specification by paragraphs 78-80, which have been amended to add numbers that correspond with Figure 8. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 1 based on an informality. Applicant has restructured claim 1 and believes that claim 1 is no longer objectionable. Therefore, the claim objection to claim 1 has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 9 to address the Examiner's specific concerns. Therefore, this rejection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Ritchie* (5,857,732). The Examiner further relies upon *Yamagata, et al.* (5,226,259) for his rejection of claim 8. Applicant disagrees with the basis for the rejection and believes claims 1-8 to be in condition for allowance. Specifically, claim 1 requires in pertinent part, as amended that step C) precede step D), i.e., that is, "assembling the anti intrusion beam onto the outer face"

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occurs prior to "assembling the door outer panel towards the outer face." *Ritchie* does not show this feature. Instead, *Ritchie* first teaches the assembly of the anti intrusion bar to the outer panel, "outer skin member 12" to form "the door sub-assembly 72." [*Ritchie*, column 5, ll 37-44]. The door sub-assembly 72 is thereafter attached to body 76 of the partially assembled vehicle during the on-line assembly process. [*Ritchie*, column 5, ll 42-46]. The vehicle is then painted. Following this operation, what the Examiner considers to be door inner panel, i.e., "carrier plate assembly 18" is assembled to sub-assembly 72. [*Ritchie*, column 5, ll 48-50]. Accordingly, in *Ritchie*, anti intrusion beam is assembled simultaneously with the door outer panel to the door inner panel because the anti intrusion beam forms part of the door outer panel when assembled to the door inner panel. *Ritchie* does not teach assembly of the anti intrusion bar prior to assembly of the door outer panel to the door inner panel. Further, *Yamagata, et al.* also fails to teach this step. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependents, claims 2-8, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 9-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Herringshaw, et al.* (4,845,894). The Examiner further relies upon *Herringshaw, et al.* alone, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Herringshaw, et al.* in view of *Bareyni* (2,757,447). Applicant disagrees with the basis for the rejection of these claims. Specifically, claim 9 requires "providing a car body on a second assembly line" and "providing a door outer panel on the second assembly line." There is no indication in *Herringshaw, et al.* that "skin 14," i.e., the so-called outer panel, is on the second assembly line. Indeed, *Herringshaw, et al.* discloses that the outer skin 14 is, in fact, mounted to the vehicle only after assembly of the inner panel to the vehicle. [*Herringshaw, et al.*, column 9, ll 67 - column 10, ll 1]. Accordingly, it appears from *Herringshaw, et al.* that the outer skin is assembled onto the vehicle on a third

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assembly line and not the "second assembly line" required by claim 9. Therefore, claim 9 and its dependents, claims 10-15, are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 10, the Examiner mistakenly identifies "window track 100" as a trim panel. [*Herringshaw, et al.*, line 57]. Window track 100 is neither a panel nor a panel for vehicle trim. Therefore, claim 10 is in condition for allowance for this additional reason.

Applicant has also written new claims, claims 16-18. Claim 16 concerns a method of assembling a door including the step of assembling the anti intrusion beam onto the outer face of a door inner panel prior to assembling the door outer panel towards the outer face. Again, *Ritchie* does not teach these limitations and, in fact, only shows the assembly of the anti intrusion beam onto the door outer panel, which is then assembled to the door inner panel. Therefore, claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 depends upon claim 16. Because claim 16 is in condition for allowance, so too is claim 17. In addition, claim 17 requires that the "anti intrusion beam is secured to the door inner panel prior to the assembly of the door outer panel to the door inner panel." This feature is not shown by *Ritchie*. Therefore, claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 depends upon claim 9 and is allowable because claim 9 is in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 18 requires that "fixing the door outer panel onto the subassembly" occurs prior to "fixing the subassembly onto the car body." This feature is not taught by *Herringshaw, et al.*, which teaches fixing the door outer panel onto the sub-assembly only after the inner panel has been mounted to the vehicle. [*Herringshaw, et al.*, column 9, ll 67- column 10, line 1]. Accordingly, claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

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Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

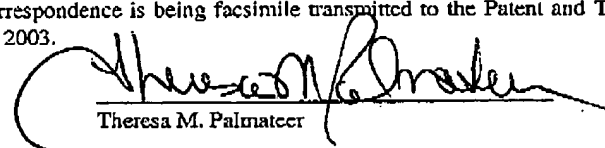
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9306) on December 18, 2003.


Theresa M. Palmatier

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